

sary, in order to save the mother's life, to remove the unborn foetus. To such highly honorable and proper acts, in accord with the highest ethics of the medical profession, the dictates of humanity, and all legal precepts, the statute has, and can have, no application. But to the destruction of unborn life for reasons, whatever they may be, other than necessity to save the mother's life, the law is intended, we believe, to be an express and absolute prohibition.

Trusting this may be of some informal assistance, I am

Very truly yours,

U. S. WEBB, *Attorney-General*.

By LIONEL BROWNE, *Deputy*.

CC: Board of Medical Examiners,  
State Annex Building,  
San Francisco.

### Concerning information on human genetics.

BUREAU OF HUMAN HEREDITY  
115, GOWER STREET, LONDON, W. C. 1  
ENGLAND

*To the Editor:*—My Council would be very much obliged if you would be good enough to insert the accompanying notice in your next issue; and either in two subsequent issues or in another two alternate issues.

The object of this Bureau is, in the first instance, to collect as complete a record as possible of current information on human genetics. The only practical method is by making our needs known widely through scientific and medical journals, and your courtesy in this matter would be greatly appreciated. As such a notice might easily be overlooked, some editors have suggested to us that repeat issues will be necessary.

Later on, when a considerable amount of material is already available, we should be glad to furnish you from time to time with notes on the more interesting and important material which may come in. I need hardly add that we are not proposing to put in insertions as paid advertisements as the existence of the Bureau is a matter of interest to all scientific and medical men concerned with man.

R. RUGGLES GATES, F. R. S., *Chairman*.

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The object of the Bureau of Human Heredity, 115, Gower Street, London, W. C. 1, England, is collection on as wide a scale as possible of material dealing with human genetics. Later, the tasks of analysis of material and distribution of the information available will be added.

The Bureau is directed by a Council representing medical and scientific bodies in Great Britain. It is affiliated to the International Human Heredity Committee, which ensures coöperation in all areas where research is proceeding.

The Council would be grateful to receive all available material from institutions and individuals, furnishing well-authenticated data on the transmission of human traits whatever these may be. Pedigrees are particularly desired; twin studies and statistical researches are also relevant. As research workers and others who send in material may in some cases wish to retain the sole right of publication (or copyright), those who so desire are asked to accompany their material with a statement to that effect.

Material should be given with all available details in regard to source, diagnostic symptoms, and the name and address of the person or persons who vouch for accuracy. All such details will be regarded as strictly confidential.

Reprints of published work would be most acceptable. Further, many authors when publishing material may also have collected a number of pedigrees which they have been unable to reproduce in detail. It is the object of the Council that such records, by being included in the Clearing House, should not be lost.

Those wishing for a copy of the Standard International Pedigree Symbols may obtain one from the office.

Announcements in regard to the services undertaken by the Bureau will be published from time to time.

### Concerning codification of Medical Practice Act.

Under the caption, "A New Legislative Problem: Possible Danger to California State Medical Practice Act," editorial comment was made in the October CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (pages 305-307).

A copy of the issue was sent to statute reviser, Mr. Arthur McHenry, who has the codification in charge, and from him has been received the following interesting reply:

CALIFORNIA CODE COMMISSION  
CREATED BY THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 750  
STATUTES 1929

OFFICE: 206 STATE CAPITOL, SACRAMENTO  
Sacramento, California,  
October 19, 1936.

George H. Kress, M. D.  
Editor, California and Western Medicine  
945 Roosevelt Building  
727 West Seventh Street  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Doctor Kress:

This is to thank you for sending us a copy of the October issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, containing an editorial discussing the tentative code revision of the State Medical Practice Act.

It was with interest that we read the editorial and comment concerning the work of the Code Commission. We realize that the Medical Practice Act is a complicated piece of legislation and that it is difficult at times to secure the exact meaning of its provisions without actively participating in its daily operation.

To secure this exact meaning is the objective of the California Code Commission, and we are quite anxious to cooperate with you and your associates who are experts in this field of legislation, to secure a draft of the code which will meet with your approval and not require litigation to establish the scope of its terms and the constitutionality of its operation.

We have found in respect to the drafting of other codes in the past that we were in accord in regard to many of the objections and criticisms that were received, and were able to adopt them in advance of the conferences, which thoroughly check the drafts, section by section. In this manner the points for discussion have usually been reduced to a material extent, the remaining issues clarified, and the conferences rendered more fruitful of concrete results than might have been possible in the absence of a preliminary exchange of views.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the draft must have the approval of the representatives of your profession before it is submitted to the Legislature, and we will be glad to work with you towards this objective. It is our aim to submit this draft to a thorough and complete study, section by section, in order that the final result will produce a code that correctly and clearly states the existing law in a manner that is satisfactory to you.

A conference, or a series of conferences, may be held at any time and place that suits the convenience of the representatives of the medical profession, as we are preparing to devote as much time and study as is necessary to accomplish our objective in a manner that meets with their approval. We have written to Dr. Charles B. Pinkham, Secretary of the State Board of Medical Examiners, to this effect and undoubtedly we will be informed of your wishes in this regard.

Finally, we wish to assure you that we shall exercise the utmost care and effort to avoid any changes in the standards of education and licensure that will embarrass the enforcement of the Act and permit unlicensed persons under the present Medical Practice Act to practice as physicians and surgeons in California. We feel, as you do, that if this should happen, it would be a real blow to public health and the best interests of the medical profession, and we are just as anxious as you are to avoid such a calamity.

Very truly yours,

FRED B. WOOD,

*Secretary.*

By ARTHUR MCHENRY,  
*Statute Reviser.*